

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to support Albania and to make certain that the Albanians can resurrect their civil society under legitimate governmental authority. A decisive event will be taking place in the national parliamentary elections that were scheduled for this Sunday, June 29.

Those elections must be held under strict conditions that ensure the results are perceived as a legitimate expression of the political voices of the Albanian people. The process must be open, must be free and fair, so all political viewpoints have the opportunity to be heard, and the Albanian people can exercise their own judgment as to which political choices they need to make.

Whatever the outcome, as long as the election meets these standards, the parties in Albania must respect the results. A large number of international election monitors will be present, and I trust that they will be able to report favorably on the elections.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to continue to give all practical support to the Albanian people, who have demonstrated their good will toward our people and toward our own Government.

Accordingly, I urge our Members to unanimously support this important resolution. Our Committee on International Relations considered it just yesterday, and adopted a resolution asking that it be considered on suspension, but the leadership, realizing the time-sensitive nature of this issue, has been good enough to schedule it under unanimous-consent procedures.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for his cooperation in moving this resolution to the floor in time to have this statement recorded prior to the elections. I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], the sponsor of this resolution, for his efforts on this behalf, and more broadly, for his efforts on behalf of the Albanian democracy and the Albanian people.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman. I thank all for giving this opportunity.

In March 1991, Albania held free elections for the first time in 45 years. Now that fragile democracy has been threatened. The Communists have threatened not to honor the outcome of this election unless they themselves are successful. This resolution states the United States of America and our Congress support free and open elections in Albania, and urges all the parties to respect the decision of the will of the people in that collective vote.

This would not be possible without the help of the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and he has certainly helped the cause of freedom around the world.

There is one last thing before I close. Albania could possibly become another Bosnia. This is an important issue that we undertake. I urge the Members to support it.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening simply to concur with the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations. We have in Albania a situation where there is a nation emerging from a long darkness into the full-fledged sunshine of democracy. I feel that we in Congress need to do all that we can to support and encourage this nation.

I strongly stand behind the distinguished gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] and the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for her comments.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here on behalf of the movement of freedom and democracy in Albania. Speaker Pjeter Arbunori has fought hard and struggled for that opportunity. The people of Albania will have that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 105

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

- (1) the elections in Albania scheduled for June 29, 1997, should be free and open; and
- (2) all political parties of Albania should honor the results of such elections.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 105, the matter just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1997, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 10, FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPETITION ACT OF 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

have until midnight on Thursday, July 3, 1997, to file its report on H.R. 10, the Financial Services Competition Act of 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to yield to the majority to learn about next week's schedule, or I should say the week after next's legislative program.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have completed our legislative business for the week. With the passage of the Balanced Budget Act and the Taxpayer Relief Act this week we have made an important first step in our fight against welfare spending and for lower taxes. This bill just passed brings American families the first tax cut in 16 years.

With that today, we begin the Fourth of July district work period; and although the majority whip will distribute an official schedule next week, I would now like to outline some of the major legislation the House will be considering upon our return.

The House will reconvene on Tuesday, July 8, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will postpone any recorded votes until 5 p.m. on Tuesday so our colleagues from the west coast can have time to get back to Washington.

On Tuesday the House will take up H.R. 849, a corrections day bill to prohibit illegal aliens from receiving relocation assistance; a number of suspensions, a list of which will be distributed next week; and the Military Construction Appropriations Act, which will be subject to a rule.

On Wednesday, July 9, and Thursday, July 10, the House will meet at 10 a.m., and on Friday, July 11, the House will meet at 9 a.m. to take up the Intelligence Authorization Act and the Interior appropriations bill. We will finish legislative business by 2 p.m. on Friday, July 11.

I wish everyone a wonderful Independence Day, and I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I simply have two questions. That would go to the Friday, July 11, schedule.

Is the gentleman really seriously expecting votes that day, or is that a possibility for eventual termination that might somehow go away during the week?

Mr. HASTERT. We have planned a full schedule with appropriations bills